

of the Press Secretary on April 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Statement on Congressional Action  
on the Supplementary Budget  
Request To Ensure Domestic Safety  
During Operation Iraqi Freedom**

*April 12, 2003*

I am pleased that Congress moved quickly and with strong bipartisan support to pass my request for our military and to bolster our homeland defenses during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The world is witnessing the liberation of Iraq and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people as a new day begins in their country. This legislation includes the resources necessary to win the war and help secure enduring freedom and democracy for the Iraqi people. I look forward to working with the Congress as we make progress in the war and in providing aid to the people of Iraq.

**Remarks on Arrival From Camp  
David, Maryland, and an Exchange  
With Reporters**

*April 13, 2003*

**Rescue of U.S. Prisoners of War**

**The President.** Today is a great day for the families, comrades, loved ones of the seven missing in action who are free. I'm really pleased, for all those who have been praying for their safety, that they are safe.

We still have missing in action in Iraq; we will continue to look for them. We pray that they too will be safe and free one of these days. But it's just a good way to start off the morning, to have been notified that seven of our fellow Americans are going to be home here pretty soon, in the arms of their loved ones.

I'll answer a few questions. Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

**Syria**

**Q.** Mr. President, Secretary Rumsfeld said today he thinks Syria is harboring some Iraqi leadership. Could Syria face military action if they harbor these people?

**The President.** Well, Syria just needs to cooperate with us. We've made—I made that clear on Friday. I will, if need be, reiterate it today. The Syrian Government needs to cooperate with the United States and our coalition partners and not harbor any Ba'athists, any military officials, any people who need to be held to account for their tenure during what we are learning more and more about. It was one of the most horrendous governments ever.

**Q.** Could they face military action if they don't cooperate?

**The President.** They just need to cooperate.

**Prayer**

**Q.** You have been talking a lot about prayer, and today is Palm Sunday. What role do you think faith and prayer had in this rescue?

**The President.** I think it played—first of all, I know it helps sustain and comfort those who mourn, those who are worried, those who are concerned about their loved ones. You know, I went to the hospital on Friday and met some of our brave troops and their families. And a lot of them told me that they had been sustained by prayer, been comforted by the Almighty during what had to have been incredibly difficult times for them—to get the phone call that a loved one had been wounded or hurt and then not knowing whether the person would live and then being able to be reunited with them here in Washington.

They told me that they felt like prayers had been answered. Prayer is powerful. One of the great things about this country is a lot of people pray, and I know a lot of people are praying for the families of those who grieve and the families of those who wonder whether or not their loved ones will ever return.

**Conditions in Iraq**

**Q.** Mr. President, some of our colleagues in Iraq are saying while the Iraqis are grateful that the coalition forces freed them from